

the Civil War to create separate and unequal societies for Whites and African Americans, was a direct result of the racism against people of African descent that was engendered by slavery;

Whereas the system of Jim Crow laws officially existed until the 1960's—a century after the official end of slavery in the United States—until Congress took action to end it, but the vestiges of Jim Crow continue to this day;

Whereas African Americans continue to suffer from the consequences of slavery and Jim Crow laws—long after both systems were formally abolished—through enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible, including the loss of human dignity and liberty;

Whereas the story of the enslavement and de jure segregation of African Americans and the dehumanizing atrocities committed against them should not be purged from or minimized in the telling of the history of the United States;

Whereas those African Americans who suffered under slavery and Jim Crow laws, and their descendants, exemplify the strength of the human character and provide a model of courage, commitment, and perseverance;

Whereas, on July 8, 2003, during a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port, President George W. Bush acknowledged the continuing legacy of slavery in life in the United States and the need to confront that legacy, when he stated that slavery “was . . . one of the greatest crimes of history . . . The racial bigotry fed by slavery did not end with slavery or with segregation. And many of the issues that still trouble America have roots in the bitter experience of other times. But however long the journey, our destiny is set: liberty and justice for all.”;

Whereas President Bill Clinton also acknowledged the deep-seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African Americans that began with slavery, when he initiated a national dialogue about race;

Whereas an apology for centuries of brutal dehumanization and injustices cannot erase the past, but confession of the wrongs committed and a formal apology to African Americans will help bind the wounds of the Nation that are rooted in slavery and can speed racial healing and reconciliation and help the people of the United States understand the past and honor the history of all people of the United States;

Whereas the legislatures of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the States of Alabama, Florida, Maryland, and North Carolina have taken the lead in adopting resolutions officially expressing appropriate remorse for slavery, and other State legislatures are considering similar resolutions; and

Whereas it is important for the people of the United States, who legally recognized slavery through the Constitution and the laws of the United States, to make a formal apology for slavery and for its successor, Jim Crow, so they can move forward and seek reconciliation, justice, and harmony for all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the sense of the Congress is the following:

(1) APOLOGY FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS.—The Congress—

(A) acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and Jim Crow laws;

(B) apologizes to African Americans on behalf of the people of the United States, for the wrongs committed against them and

their ancestors who suffered under slavery and Jim Crow laws; and

(C) expresses its recommitment to the principle that all people are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and calls on all people of the United States to work toward eliminating racial prejudices, injustices, and discrimination from our society.

(2) DISCLAIMER.—Nothing in this resolution—

(A) authorizes or supports any claim against the United States; or

(B) serves as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the business meeting of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that reconvened on Thursday, June 11, 2009, will resume in SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 10:15 a.m., until 11 a.m.

The business meeting will then reconvene on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending energy legislation.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing entitled “North Korea Back at the Brink?”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education,

Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Healthcare Reform” on Thursday, June 11, 2009. The hearing will commence at 3 p.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 11, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 11, 2009, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 11, 2009, at 3 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Exploring the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 11 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "S. 372—The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2009."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Douglas, Christian Fjeld, and Lisa Hone, Congressional fellows with the Commerce Committee, be allowed floor privileges during the consideration of S. 1023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. CON. RES. 26

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, June 18, following a period of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 26, a concurrent resolution submitted earlier today, and relating to slavery apology; that the concurrent resolution be held at the desk; that there be 60 minutes for debate with respect to the concurrent resolution, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that no amendments be in order to the concurrent resolution or preamble; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution; that upon adoption, the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we expect this resolution to be voted on by voice.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MILLARD FULLER

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 183.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 183) celebrating the life and achievements of Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the

preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 183) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 183

Whereas Millard Fuller was born on January 3, 1935, in the small cotton-mill town of Lanett, in Chambers County, Alabama, and would later graduate from Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Law;

Whereas Millard Fuller became a self-made millionaire by the age of 29 and could have lived out the rest of his life in comfort, but instead he and his wife sold all of their possessions, donated the proceeds to the poor, and began searching for a new purpose for their lives;

Whereas Millard Fuller and his wife established Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia, in 1976;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity has constructed more than 300,000 homes for 1,500,000 people and has a presence in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and more than 90 countries around the world;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity's noteworthy accomplishments include building 263 houses across the United States in 1 week and massive rebuilding efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas in 2005, Millard Fuller established The Fuller Center for Housing, which works with local organizations to provide support and guidance to repair and build homes for impoverished individuals and is located in 24 States and 15 countries on 5 continents;

Whereas Millard Fuller provided 3 decades of leadership and service to Habitat for Humanity and The Fuller Center for Housing, committing his life to philanthropy and service to others while raising global concern for homelessness and poverty;

Whereas Millard Fuller was honored with over 50 honorary doctorate degrees by colleges and universities throughout the United States and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, by President William Jefferson Clinton in 1996; and

Whereas Millard Fuller passed away on February 3, 2009, leaving behind a loving wife, a proud family, and a legacy that will extend far beyond his life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the life and achievements of Millard Fuller;

(2) acknowledges the millions of people he and his organization have served and the inspiration he has given to so many; and

(3) encourages all the people of the United States to recognize and pay tribute to Millard Fuller's life by following the example of service that he set.

#### OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OFFICER STEPHEN T. JOHNS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 184.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 184) offering deepest condolences to the family and friends of Officer Stephen T. Johns and calling on the leaders of all Nations to speak out against the manifestations of anti-Semitism, bigotry, and hatred.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I have submitted a resolution condemning yesterday's heinous, horrific act of violence at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I want to offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns. Officer Johns, of Temple Hills, in Prince George's County, MD, died in the line of duty. He ably served as a guard of the museum for 6 years. He was just 39 and leaves behind a grieving family. He gave his life to save the lives of numerous others. We must perpetually honor that ultimate sacrifice. I also want to commend all the staff of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the authorities who responded to the scene for their bravery.

I have visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum many times with my family and friends. It is clear that the gunman's despicable rampage was intended to frighten and intimidate all people who care about equality and liberty.

I introduced this resolution to affirm my commitment to ending the bigotry and hatred that led to this heinous act. There is no place in our society for individuals who would harm or deny rights to others, especially based on religion, race, gender, or ethnic identity. It is heartening that each and every U.S. Senator has cosponsored this resolution.

Let there be no mistake about it, anti-Semitism and other hate crimes remain a pressing problem in our society. Anti-Semitism spawns from centuries of hatred, persecution, and the repeated attempts to destroy the Jewish people from their early days of slavery, through the Inquisition to the Holocaust and beyond. Hate crimes send a powerful message because they affect more than the individual victims; they are meant to intimidate and instill fear in entire groups of people. They create a sense of vulnerability and insecurity in others who may share characteristics with the victims. And that is precisely the intent of those who commit these crimes.

I am privileged to be chairman of the Helsinki Commission and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In those capacities, and as a U.S. Senator generally, I am afforded numerous opportunities to speak out against the scourge of anti-Semitism, racial bigotry, and ethnic hatred worldwide. Part of the battle is to publicize the intolerance and hateful activity. As Oliver Wendell Holmes remarked,

The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of an eye. The more light you shine on it, the more it will contract.

This resolution is meant to be such a light and I am grateful that each and